THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. However, no such divergence of views, as alleged, exists between the Finance Ministry and SCICI and the latter functions as the 'designated person' in respect of the cases assisted by the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC).

(b) to (d) Certain letters and petitions suggesting that the functioning of SCICI be modified or improved have been received. Since SCICI is a board managed company and not a Government company, these representations were sent to it for examination and initiating action as may be considered necessary. Where Government's interests and directly involved, suitable suggestions have been given to the company, and where necessary, specific information has also been sought from the company.

(e) A revised rehabilitation scheme has been announced by the Government and rehabilitation proposals of 30 companies have already been approved by the Government and sanction letters forwarded to them for acceptance of the terms and conditions, and consequent documentation.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

**Clearance of Bombay Branch of B.C.C.I. by Reserve Bank of India**

1062. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item that appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 24th October, 1991 regarding clean chit given by the Reserve Bank of India to the Bombay branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (B.C.C.I); and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what further action is contemplated by the Bombay branch of the Bank in so far as deposits of Indian origin people are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) RBI, in terms of the powers vested with them under Section 30(IB) of th Banking Regulation Act, 1949, have ordered a special audit with a view to colle further information on the working of the BCCI, Bombay branch. The issue of deposits is, inter alia, linked to the petition for liquidation of Bombay branch filed by RBI in Bombay High Court and the matter is subjudice.

**Amendment of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act**

1063. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BIFR has represented to Government the need to make amendments to the Sick Industrial Companis (Special Provisions) Act;

(b) if so, when were the first recommendations from BIFR received;

(c) what are the major reasons for seeking amendments;

(d) what action has been taken by Government; and

(e) the reason for delay in attending to the recommendations of BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The first recommendations to this effect were received from the Chairman, BIFR vide his letter dated 31st October, 1988 to make the BIFR more effective in achieving its basic objective of timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and of expeditious determination and enforcement of preventive, remedial and other measures required to be taken in regard to such companies.

(d) and (e) Comprehensive amendments to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 are presently under the consideration of Government. Sugges-